

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The supports for use in the present invention may be transparent or opaque, flexible or rigid. Glass, or fused silica, is the most commonly used microarray support in the art, although plastics, metals, and semiconductors may also be used. Generally, a glass support is planar and has high flatness and clarity. Preferably, the glass does not fluoresce and has a thickness from 0.1 mm to 5 mm. The glass support may have any dimensions and may be cut into various sizes, according to its intended uses. The support used in the invention may also be any of those usually used in the art, such as resin-coated paper, paper, polyesters, or microporous materials such as polyethylene polymer-containing material sold by PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under the trade name of Teslin **TESLIN** ®, Tyvek **TYVEK** ® synthetic paper (DuPont Corp.), and OPPalyte **OPPALYTE** ® films (Mobil Chemical Co.) and other composite films listed in U.S. Patent 5,244,861. Opaque supports include plain paper, coated paper, synthetic paper, photographic paper support, melt-extrusion-coated paper, and laminated paper, such as biaxially oriented support laminates. Biaxially oriented support laminates are described in U.S. Patents 5,853,965; 5,866,282; 5,874,205; 5,888,643; 5,888,681; 5,888,683; and 5,888,714, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The porous layer may also include crosslinking agents. Any crosslinking agent may be used provided its reactive functionalities have the appropriate reactivity with specific chemical units in the binder. Some common crosslinkers which may crosslink binders rich in lewis basic functionalities include, but are not necessarily limited to, carbodiimides, polyvalent metal cations, organic isocyanates such as tetramethylene diisocyanate, hexamethylene diisocyanate, diisocyanato dimethylcyclohexane, dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, dimethylbenzene diisocyanate, methylcyclohexylene diisocyanate, lysine diisocyanate, tolylene diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate, aziridines such as taught in U. S. Patent 4,225,665,

ethyleneimines such as ~~Xama-7~~XAMA-7® sold by EIT Industries, blocked isocyanates such as CA RI-12 sold by Cytec Industries, melamines such as methoxymethylmelamine as taught in U. S. Patent 5,198,499, alkoxysilane coupling agents including those with epoxy, amine, hydroxyl, isocyanate, or vinyl functionality, ~~Cyrel~~CYTEL® crosslinking agents such as ~~Cymel~~CYTEL 300®, ~~Cymel~~CYTEL 303®, ~~Cymel~~CYTEL 1170®, ~~Cymel~~CYTEL 1171® sold by Cytec Industries, and bis-epoxides such as the ~~Epon~~EPON® family sold by Shell. Other crosslinking agents include compounds such as aryloylureas, aldehydes, dialdehydes and blocked dialdehydes, chlorotriazines, carbamoyl pyridiniums, pyridinium ethers, formamidinium ethers, vinyl sulfones, boric acid, dihydroxydioxane, and polyfunctional aziridines such as CX-100 (manufactured by Zeneca Resins). Such crosslinking agents may be low molecular weight compounds or polymers, as discussed in U. S. Patent 4,161,407 and references cited therein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to obtain adequate coatability, additives known to those familiar with such art such as surfactants, defoamers, and alcohol may be used. Coating aids and surfactants include, but are not limited to, nonionic fluorinated alkyl esters such as FC-430®, FC-431®, FC-10®, FC-171® sold by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., ~~Zonyl~~ZONYL® fluorochemicals such as ~~Zonyl~~ZONYL-FSN®, ~~Zonyl~~ZONYL-FTS®, ~~Zonyl~~ZONYL-TBS®, ~~Zonyl~~ZONYL-BA® sold by DuPont Corp., other fluorinated polymer or copolymers such as ~~Mediper~~MODIPER F600® sold by NOF Corporation, polysiloxanes such as Dow Corning DC 1248®, DC200®, DC510®, DC 190®, BYK 320®, BYK 322®, sold by BYK Chemie, SF 1079®, SF1023®, SF 1054®, and SF 1080® sold by General Electric, the ~~Silwet~~SILWET® polymers sold by Union Carbide, polyoxyethylene-lauryl ether surfactants, sorbitan laurate, palmitate and stearates such as ~~Span~~SPAN® surfactants sold by Aldrich, poly(oxyethylene-co-oxypropylene) surfactants such as the ~~Pluronie~~PLURONIC® family sold by BASF, other polyoxyethylene-containing surfactants such as the ~~Triton~~TRITON X® family sold by Union Carbide, ionic surfactants, such as the ~~Alkanol~~ALKANOL® series sold by DuPont Corp., and

the Dowfax **DOWFAX®** family sold by Dow Chemical. Specific examples are described in MCCUTCHEON's Volume 1: Emulsifiers and Detergents, 1995, North American Edition.